

Field Semi-Annual Display

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Two Politicos Link Them
to Prisoner Releases

By ARTHUR ROANE
(T.P. Latin American Affairs Writer)
Two Venezuelan political figures said Wednesday the present wave of terrorist attacks in Caracas is primarily a semi-

annual display against the government.

Every July and December some political prisoners are given amnesty and released.

Right now, the "hard line" Communists are trying to prevent some "soft liners" from being released.

PRESIDENT CRACKS DOWN
However, President Raul Leoni on Tuesday night suspended constitutional guarantees in a crackdown on the terrorists, the first such move in Venezuela since 1962.

In the past few weeks, terrorists have set fire to an American-owned department store in Caracas, bombed at least two supermarkets, fired on a U. S. Department of Commerce exhibit and shot at policemen, according to the Associated Press.

Leoni's action was taken after the army chief of staff was wounded slightly and a lawyer who works for a military court that tries guerillas was killed by machine gun fire.

Both Jose Rafael Zapata Luigi and Isaias Medina Serfati said the terrorism will subside after the new year begins.

'YOU CAN PLOT GRAPH . . .'
Medina, member of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee, said "you can plot a graph of the terrorism showing how even the increases and decreases are."

Zapata is a member of this committee and also a deputy of the National Congress.

They are in two opposition parties to President Leoni but neither criticized his actions.

Both men said that guerrilla activities in the country have been halted for some time, because they couldn't get the support of the populace.

Zapata also noted that "one



A FOUR-MAN GROUP of Venezuelan government and military men talk with Capt. Henry Spler (center), director of International relations at International House.

From left are Col. Angel Alberto Calzadilla Irazabal, Jose Rafael Zapata Luigi, Spicer, Isaias Medina Serfati and Comdr. Gustavo Enrique Baudet Chapellin.

attack on a political figure gets more publicity than a month's attack in the mountains."

CASTRO POSSIBLE CAUSE

They did admit, however, that the current attacks are quite possibly promoted by Fidel Castro from Cuba.

The two men are on a State Department-guided tour along with Col. Angel Alberto Calzadilla Irazabal, military officer of the Ministry of Defense and Cmdr. Gustavo Enrique Baudet Chapellin, commander of the destroyer Almirante Garcia.

Col. Calzadilla said he is unable to discuss what measures the military is taking to halt the terrorism.

Medina criticized the "campaign in the United States to show a Latin American arms buildup. In my opinion, Sen. Robert Kennedy was using this to his political advantage. We have merely been replacing some old parts for new ones."

'PAID FOR ARMS'

Zapata said that all military expenditures total only 9.55 per cent of the national budget. "No soldiers from any other country have fought in Venezuela

he said.

More Important, Zapata concluded, is the anti-Communist social revolution in Venezuela.

aimed at bettering living standards.

The Venezuelans were interviewed at International House.

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